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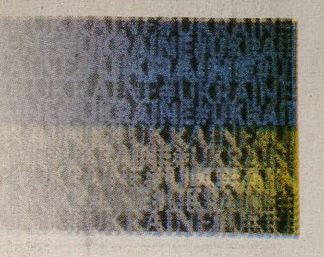


The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

April 1 - April 14, 2022

Vol. 90 - Issue 11

Photo by Chris Swann

Players and coaches circle for a prayer in the lobby of Wagstaff after arriving back to campus. Following their victory, the team arrived back with cheers and applause from friends, family and other supporters.

LADY APACHES MAKE SCHOOL HISTORY

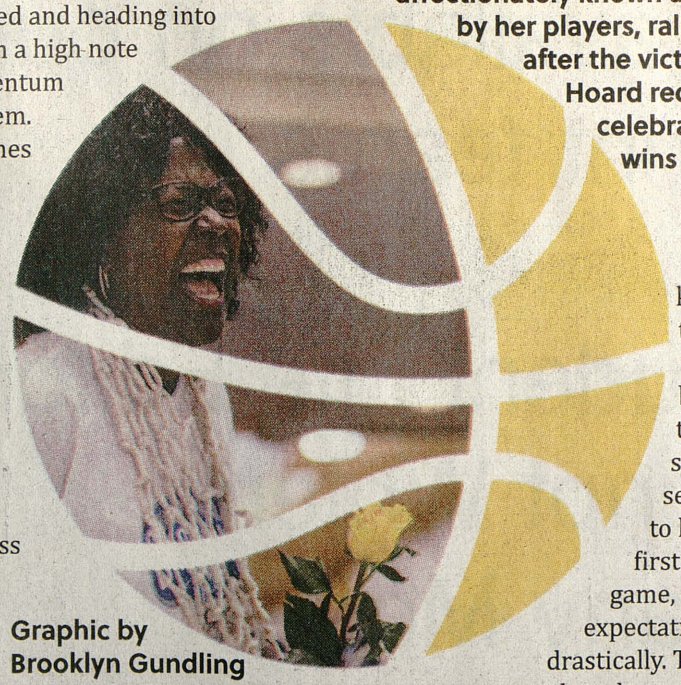
Women's basketball takes home second NJCAA championship win

By Colton Hollis
Multimedia Journalist

The TJC Lady Apaches basketball team capped off a thrilling season with a National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association championship win. Despite being seeding underdogs through all five of their matchups, the team fought through the adversity and doubt.

The TJC Lady Apaches basketball team competed as the 17th seeded team. The tournament began March 16 and ended days later on March 21. While the championship was less than a week long, the season leading up to the finals was a long and difficult road for the team.

The first game of the season was played Nov. 5 against Southwestern Christian College, ending in a win for the Lady Apaches with a score of 121-46. Following this game, the team went on a run of 5 wins and 2 losses to end November with an overall record of 6-2. They then continued their winning ways through December, going undefeated and heading into the new year on a high note and with momentum fully behind them. The Lady Apaches went on to win 10 games in a row before eventually losing against Panola College, which was ranked No. 20 in the country at the time. The team didn't let the loss deter them too much though, going 2-1 in the next three games of January and 5-3 in February to end the regular season with an overall record of 23-7.



Graphic by Brooklyn Gundling
Photo by Chris Swann

Coach Trenia Tillis-Hoard, affectionately known as "Coach T" by her players, rallies the team after the victory parade. Hoard recently celebrated 500 wins at TJC.

With the end of the regular season comes the beginning of the championship season. Despite a loss in the Region XIV tournament finals to Angelina College, the team's record was still good enough to enter the national championship. They defeated 16th seeded Chipola College in a thrilling overtime game with a score of 67-65. The team then played No. 1 seeded Three Rivers Community College. Despite entering the tournament 28-1, Three Rivers missed their first 14 shots of the game, giving TJC an early chance to take a big lead. While not directly about this game, Coach Trenia Tillis Hoard's words about the tumultuous nature of the tournament ring true.

"But you never know, based on seeding, how the girls are feeling and shooting on any given night, to win a national championship everything has to go in your favor," Tillis-Hoard said. "It's almost like someone has to knock someone off or someone has to play really bad."

And knockoff they did. Three Rivers became the second straight No. 1 seeded team to lose in their first tournament game, changing expectations drastically. TJC didn't stop there however, and the team began using the momentum from these two wins to beat the rest of their competition with a point differential of exactly 12 points in all three games.

After defeating Georgia Highlands College in the finals, the Lady Apaches were able to bring home the second Women's Basketball national championship to TJC, with the first being in the year 2000.

Jasmine Payne is a sophomore forward for the Lady Apaches basketball team who remembers her feelings of joy the moment the team won.

"Just happiness, I was on the bench at the time. I was just crying tears of joy; I was just so happy and thrilled to be feeling that feeling," Payne said. "A lot of people kinda had doubt and to prove them wrong was just a happy moment."

As the confetti fell, the team celebrated their names going down in history as the lowest-seeded team since 2010 to win the division one women's basketball national championship. However, there was a different feeling coming from Coach Tillis Hoard, who is affectionately called Coach T by players, associates and fans alike.

"It's surreal. You are just sitting there going, 'Did this really happen to me?' Even when the confetti is flying you get the feeling it's for someone else. But it was fun, you watch games and watch basketball. For 22 years I've watched it happen to someone else and this time it just happens to happen to me, and you're in the moment and trying your best to embrace the moment, not think ahead and just enjoy the moment. That's what we tried to do," Tillis-Hoard recalled.

TJC wasn't the only school in Tyler to celebrate this momentous win either, with UT Tyler inviting the team and Coach T to their campus where they lit up Riter Tower in the signature Apache Gold.

"We wanted to do something special to celebrate with our friends at Tyler Junior College," UT Tyler President Kirk A. Calhoun said in a press release. "This is a success the entire community embraces."

This win does come with a bit of sobering reality to it. This team is at a two-year college, and with only three players eligible to come back for next season, the last time the majority of these women shared the court was to raise a trophy and celebrate a championship run that will go down in history.

War in Ukraine: What led to the ongoing invasion

By Chris Swann
Design and Photo Editor

In early February, mounting evidence that a conflict in Europe was eminent.

Upon initial reports by the Pentagon of military buildups on the border, Russia responded claiming to be carrying out "military exercises." Meanwhile in the U.S., the Biden Administration was constantly sending threats to the Kremlin if it were to invade Ukraine. Russia continued building their troop count along the border, until the rising action quickly escalated further when Russian-backed separatists began fighting in contested areas on the East side of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin later recognized those areas as independent, and on Feb. 24, announced "special military operations" in Ukrainian territory, marking the beginning of war in Ukraine.

Months prior to invasion, Putin set an agenda with the West involving Ukraine, demanding they not join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. Such a move would remove Ukraine as a buffer between the East and the West, putting the alliance on Russia's doorstep. Concern that Ukraine was on a path to joining NATO began at a 2008 NATO summit in Bucharest, NATO acknowledged Ukraine and Georgia's aspirations for membership, declaring, "We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO."

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Sports 5
Opinion 7

Questions or concerns? Email: news@thedrumbeat.com or call: 903-510-2299

Arts Fest

Art Club Silent Auction
4 ↓ 7
Monday 8 a.m. - Thursday 2 p.m.
Jenkins Hall Glass Case Gallery

Hundred years ago film festival: The Worldly Madonna
6
6 p.m.
Jenkins Hall 1109

TJC Academy of Dance: The Little Mermaid
8 ↓ 10
7 p.m. Friday
2 and 7 p.m. Saturday
2 and 5 p.m. Sunday
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center

Wordshop Event
11
4 - 5 p.m.
The Quad

Star in your own commercial
12
2 - 4 p.m.
Jenkins Hall 1109

Lunch on the Lawn: Steel Pan Ensemble Concert
13
Noon
Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center
Front Lawn

For more information and events, visit tjc.edu.

Volunteer Opportunities

50 Gallon Challenge Blood Drive
1
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Apache Room 1

Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick Up
1
1 - 3 p.m.
Highway 69 South

East Texas Big Event
2
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Downtown Tyler

Student Life Events

Movie Night
5
7 p.m.
Apache Room 1

Student Senate Elections
12 ↓ 13
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
OrgSync

Student Senate Committee Meetings
12
4 p.m.
Apache Room 1

Spring Fling
13
3 - 6 p.m.
Intramural Field

STUDENT RUN DB AWARD WINNING

Interested in joining The DrumBeat?

Many positions are still available on our broadcast and print teams:

-Multimedia Journalists
-Photographers
-Camera Operators
-Sports Editor
-Student Life Editor
-Script Writers
-Many More!

For more information and to get involved, visit Jenkins Hall, Rooms1114 B or 1108.

TIMELINE OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

POPULATION: 43,200,000

G.D.P PER CAPITA: $3,100 USD

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: UKRAINIAN

Infographic by Chris Swann
Design and Photo Editor

Nov. 10, 2021

U.S. Intelligence reported unusual Russian military movement near Ukraine's border.

Dec. 7, 2021

President Biden warns Russian president Vladimir Putin of "strong economic and other measures" if Russia attacks Ukraine.

Jan. 25, 2022

Russia commences military exercises near the border of Ukraine, involving 6,000 troops and 60 jets.

Feb. 17, 2022

Fighting in Russian backed separatist regions escalated to an all-time high.

Feb. 21, 2022

Putin recognized the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk territories and ordered "peacekeeping" operations in those regions.

Feb. 24, 2022

Putin orders "special military operations" in Ukraine. Russian forces begin moving into Ukrainian territory.

Feb. 26, 2022

Hundreds of casualties as a result of fighting overnight were reported in Kyiv. Russian artillery shelling destroyed numerous bridges, schools and an apartment building.

Western powers, including the U.S., announce more sanctions including the removal of Russia from the SWIFT financial messaging systems, which would keep Russian banks from conducting basic commerce with the outside world.

Feb. 28, 2022

Diplomatic talks between Ukrainian and Russian representatives in Belarus concluded without a solution.

March 3, 2022

During a second round of talks, Ukrainian and Russian representatives agreed to the establishment of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians.

The U.S. announces more sanctions targeting 10 of Russia's largest banks, and restricting certain exports.

March 5, 2022

Russian armed forces announce a ceasefire to allow the organization of humanitarian corridors to help 200,000 civilians escape from Mauripol, a town without water and electricity. Fighting resumed shortly after.

March 7, 2022

Russia announced the establishment of six more humanitarian corridors.

A U.S. defense official stated that Russia had deployed nearly 100% of its troops it had amassed before the invasion of Ukraine.

March 8, 2022

The United Nations reports more than 2 million civilians have fled Ukraine as a result of the fighting.

March 9, 2022

Poland offered Ukraine to send its entire fleet of MiG-29 fighter jets to the U.S. to deliver to Ukraine via a U.S. Air Force Base in Germany. The U.S., however, rejected the proposition, citing concerns of the move starting a direct conflict with Russia.

March 10, 2022

Russian forces bomb a humanitarian corridor near Mauripol, keeping vital supplies from reaching civilians.

March 15, 2022

The prime ministers of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Slovenia defiantly travel to Kyiv. "It is our duty to be where history is forged," Polish Prime Minister Mateuz Morawiecki said on a Facebook post after arriving.

March 16, 2022

In an appeal to Congress via virtual address, President Vladimir Zelensky pleaded to U.S. lawmakers for help, invoking Pearl Harbor and 9/11.

March 22, 2022

The Pentagon said Russian forces fighting in Ukraine have shrunk.

March 26, 2022

On a diplomatic trip to Europe, President Biden delivered a formal denouncement of Vladimir Purim's invasion. Saying, "For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power."

March 29, 2022

During talks with Ukranian representatives, Moscow promised to reduce attacks in Northern Ukraine.

Information gathered from The New York Times, Aljazeera, Brittanica, and The Washington Post.

This is a developing story. Last day any information was gathered was March 29, 2022

Giving back to the community

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

With community service deadlines approaching for on-campus organizations and scholarships, the need for volunteer opportunities that fulfill your requirements and catch your attention is on the rise. Luckily, Tyler provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for students to get involved within the community. Here are a few volunteer opportunities within five miles of TJC.

Nicholas Pet Haven

Nicholas Pet Haven is an animal rescue nonprofit organization located 5.2 miles away from TJC at 12903 Hwy 155 S, Tyler, TX 75703. This organization was founded in 2013 by organization president Nicholas Nash, who was 13 years old at the time. Since its founding, Nicholas Pet Haven has made large impacts on the lives of the dogs and cats they have taken in over the years.

"The mission of Nicholas Pet Haven is to provide shelter and care to lost, homeless, unwanted, abandoned or abused animals. We have taken in more injured animals than any other rescue in our area to help get them back on their feet and adopted into loving homes," Nash said.

Nash discloses the organization is in desperate need for volunteers as well as foster homes for their organization.

"Our shelter is a great place to volunteer because we are always shorthanded and we desperately need the help," Nash said. "It's the volunteers that help keep us going and allows us to rescue even more dogs. Besides volunteers, we are in need of foster homes where these animals can rest and recuperate."

Volunteers within the organization will have a set of responsibilities.

"We get started at 9 each morning and ask that volunteers arrive at this time. We have them walk dogs, do chores such as washing dishes and general cleaning. Volunteers can stay as long as they like but the main chores are done in the morning," Nash said.

For more information about volunteering, individuals can send the organization a private message through their Facebook page, Nicholas Pet Haven.

Image courtesy of Nicholas Pet Haven
Individuals can donate to Nicholas Pet Haven by Venmo, PayPal or by visiting Facebook.

Photo by Marie Salazar
TheraPet has more than 90 dogs, three cats and a cockatoo that serves in their program. The organization is 100% supported by donor funds.

TheraPet

TheraPet is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization providing Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activities for individuals undergoing all forms of rehabilitation. According to therapet.org, "Animal Assisted Therapy is when animals are used in goal-directed treatment sessions. These goals can be physical, mental, emotional and/or social."

Sydney Baker, operations coordinator, provides a brief insight on TheraPet's main mission as an nonprofit organization.

"Our mission is to utilize specially trained and certified animals to promote health, hope and healing. We accomplish this mission by: Establishing and communicating standards of practice for the use of specially trained animals in the health care setting; Providing education to health care professionals, educators and facility leaders; Educating communities on the opportunities and benefits of Animal Assisted Therapy; Providing the highest quality and best trained volunteer/animal teams to the people we serve," Baker said.

TheraPet offers two volunteer opportunities. Volunteers with animals who are certified in AAT and AAA and volunteers without animals.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering with their animal must have completed training and certifying their animals. To find all certification requirements visit, therapet.org/volunteer/certification.

Individuals volunteering for TheraPet without animals will still have a variety of responsibilities.

"Volunteers without animals in the program assist at facility visitation, community events, and by dressing up as our mascot 'Healer,' as their personal schedule and the organization's calendar permits," Baker said.

Individuals interested in volunteering at Therapet can visit therapet.org/volunteer to receive an online volunteer application form.

For additional questions/information, contact (903) 535-2125, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Meals on Wheels East Texas

Meals on Wheels East Texas is an organization that has been serving the East Texas area since 1973 with their first meal being delivered on Oct. 15, 1973. This organization is dedicated to a variety of goals, such as, "supplying homebound seniors and disabled citizens nutritious meals, abating the loneliness and isolation of elderly and disabled persons by providing daily contact with members of their communities, promoting the health, safety, and welfare of all elderly and disabled persons in East Texas," according to mealsonwheelsetx.org.

Miranda Asmussen, marketing and public relations director, explains the importance of volunteering with the organization. "Our clients need our volunteers. Aside from feeding people who struggle with food insecurity, research shows that a daily visit four days a week is the greatest benefit to their health to keep them from succumbing to loneliness and isolation with ensuing depression and anxiety which leads to health issues," Asmussen said. "Food insecure seniors are 60% more likely to experience depression, 53% more likely to report a heart attack, 52% more likely to develop asthma, and 40% more likely to experience congestive heart failure. While food is vital, so are the safety checks and friendly faces at their door each day."

As a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, individuals are able to decide how often they would like to contribute.

"The volunteer's time commitment is entirely up to him or her. We have volunteers who are here every week, Monday through Thursday, and we have others who volunteer as little as once a month. We have a schedule volunteers can sign up for and have routes assigned based on who's available to deliver any given day," Asmussen said.

Volunteer responsibilities will include packing meals, delivering meals and providing safety checks. Asmussen explains volunteers usually pack their delivery meals for the day in the mornings. Each volunteer is assigned a specific route to deliver that can range from 10-20 stops.

"Generally, the volunteer's time spent is between an hour and a half and two hours accounting for traffic, chats with clients, how long they take to pack up, etc.," Asmussen said.

For individuals who do not have a vehicle to deliver, another option mentioned on the website is to team up with someone you know and tackle delivering together.

For more information,visit mealsonwheelsetx.org/get-involved, or call (903)-593-7385 and speak with Donna Anderson, volunteer coordinator for Tyler.

Other Meals on Wheels volunteer locations in areas such as Upshur County, Wood County, Van Zandt County, Henderson County, and Gregg County can be contacted at different numbers. For individuals interested in volunteering in these locations contact Meals On Wheels main office number to receive specific contact information for each location.

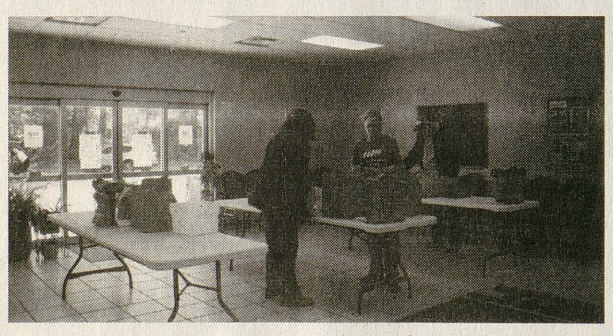


Photo by Chris Swann
Volunteers for Meals On Wheels arrive between 10 and 11 a.m. to pack up the meals for the day. Each driver has a specific route assigned to them.

Mudslingers brewing up popularity in Tyler

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

Mudslingers, a new local coffee shop, opened for business in Tyler in early February. Located in the parking lot of Green Acres Bowl, this drive-thru kiosk has been the new talk of the town. From Facebook posts to word-of-mouth recommendations, the sudden rave and popularity of Mudslingers came as a surprise to both the owner and his wife.

Photo by Chris Swann
Mudslingers Drive-Thru Coffee serves coffee beans that come directly from East Texas. The business chooses local products to support the economy of the city.

Owner and kiosk manager, Nathan Stephens said, "Everybody told us 'you're gonna have to fight Starbucks tooth and nail to get customers' and then we showed up and yeah. We've just been amazingly blessed with how well people have received our product."

Operations manager, Carley Stephens, also shared how some things they weren't expecting made the business stand out.

"It's been a very big sugar free following that we found and also alternative milks," Carley said. "It's been things that we weren't expecting when we opened that set us apart, I would say."

So what exactly makes Mudslingers different from other coffee shops? For some, the answer is the coffee itself.

English major Jaiden Craig said, "The coffee is like the perfect balance of coffee and sweetness. Also, they have a punch card where you get a free drink for every 10 you buy."

The drinks served are also available for customization, allowing customers to add or substitute any flavors of their choosing. Carley expounds on their local vicinity of products is what makes them so unique.

"The beans that we get come from Calidad," Carley said. "They're based out of Flint, and it's a family-owned business. The merchandise that we're getting is through American Graphics, and it's a father and then his son-in-law also does the embroidery. So that's where all of our apparel for us and for our customers comes from."

The couple mentioned the point of staying local was to not only support their family, but also other area families.

Mudslingers offers 60 different flavors to choose from, both regular and sugar free. Nathan explained how their ultimate goal was to satisfy every customer by allowing everyone to drink what they want.

Another reason why Mudslingers stands out is because of the kiosk style location. Nathan explains the inspiration behind the idea.

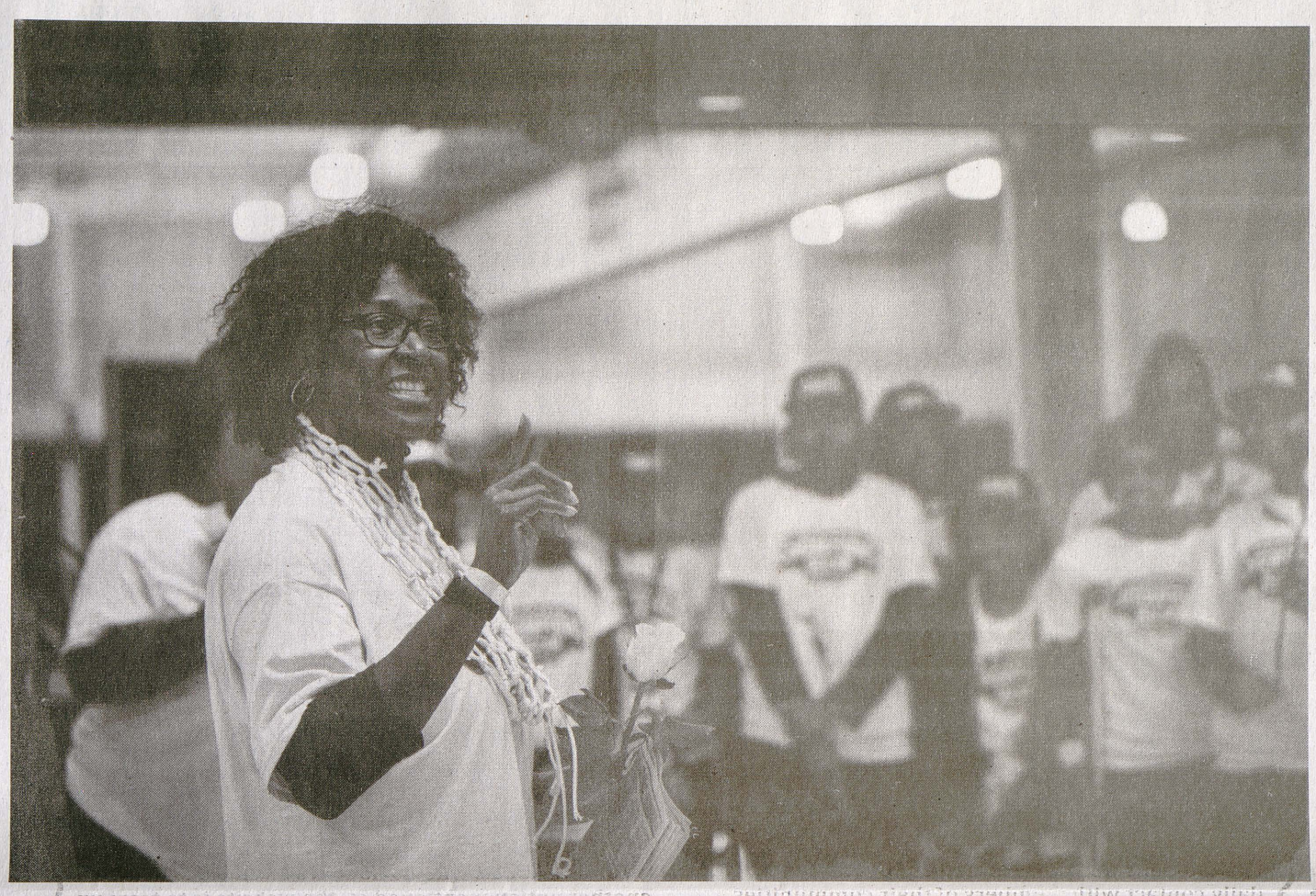
"So we come from Spokane, Washington, in the Northwest. All over the area up there, there are little mom and pop shops," Nathan said. "And they're basically just little drive-thru kiosks, you got two windows that operate either side, get in, get out quick."

He expressed how they missed those kiosk-styled shops and decided the market needed to see something different, so they brought a part of the North with them to East Texas. Mudslingers sells products besides coffee such as smoothies, energy drinks, teas and various snacks. Their current most popular items are "The Mudslinger" and "Cinna-Slinger," both of which are signature coffees.

Prices vary based on size and items. All prices listed on their menu include the tax so what's seen is what's paid.

Store hours are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, visit mudslingerscoffee-tylertx.com or message them on Facebook at Mudslingers of Tyler.

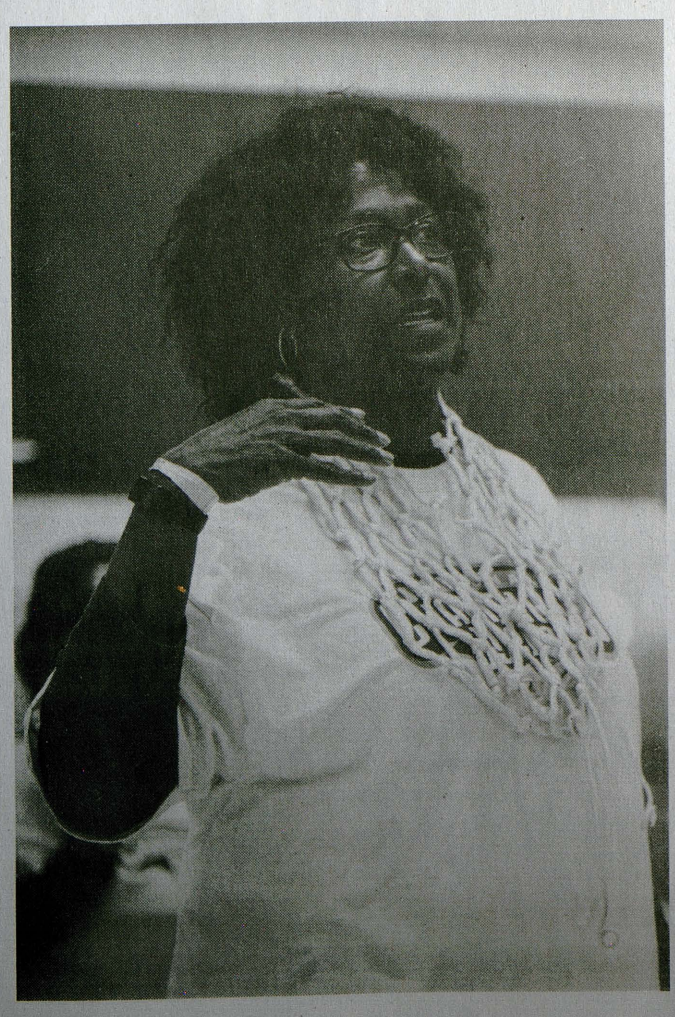
A CHAMPION'S WELCOME

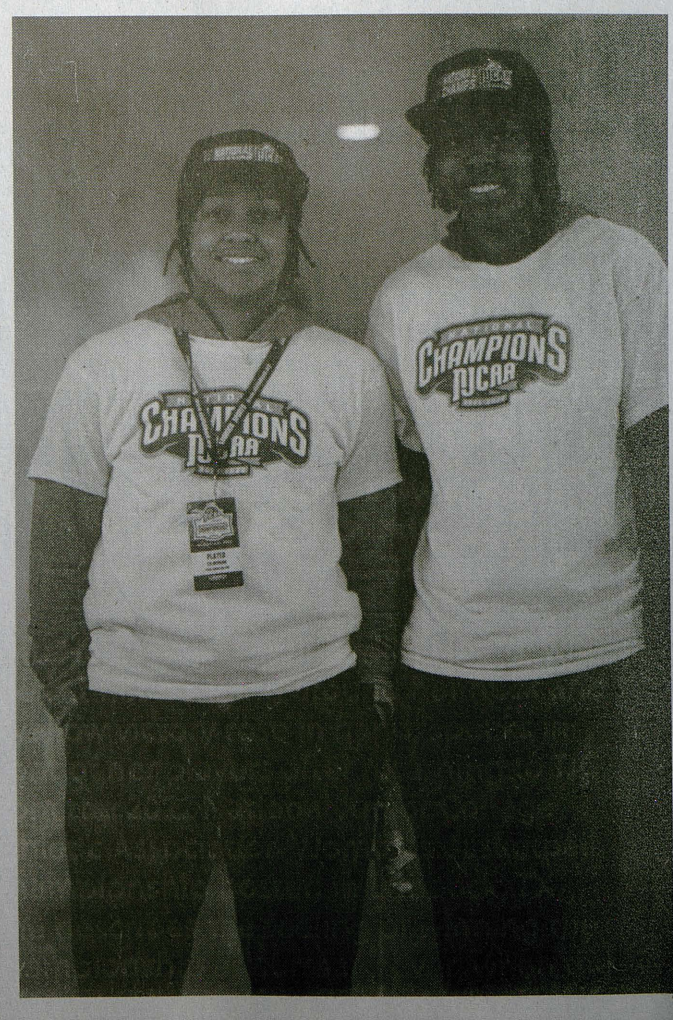


Photos by Chris Swann & Brooklyn Gundling

Left: Head Coach Treina-TIllis Hoard, with the cut net hanging around her neck and a yellow victory rose in hand, speaks in front of her players after returning to TJC from the 2022 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Championship hosted in Lubbock, TX. She describes the feeling of winning the championship as surreal. "Even when the confetti is flying you get the feeling it's for someone else," Coach Tillis-Hoard said in her speech. Coach Tillis Hoard spent time thanking her players for pushing through the pain and working together, but her players say that Hoard gave them the motivation to keep going. As forward Jasmine Payne explains, "we really wanted to do it for Coach T. She always told us that she had teams to make it far and just could never win it. So we just wanted to do it for her, and we did."

Clockwise from left: Veonce Powell, Emari Sidney and Trinittee Alexander display their yellow flowers, given to them upon return home from the championship. The yellow roses represent Tyler and remind the team of their dedication throughout the season. Tia Morgan and Jasmine Payne together after arriving at Wagstaff. Payne describes the feeling on the bench as the confetti rained down. "I was just crying tears of joy; I was just so happy and thrilled to be feeling that feeling." Coach Treina-Tillis Hoard exchanges a hug with Jasmine Payne holding a yellow victory rose. Coach Tillis-Hoard speaks to friends, family and supporters behind her players after arriving back on campus. Tillis Hoard recently celebrated her 500th win with the Lady Apaches earlier this year before taking her team to the championship. Despite such an high number of wins, this is the first time Coach T has brought a winning team to the NJCAA Championship. Nadechka Laccen, Tia Morgan, Jasmine Payne, Deborah Ogaymi and Brianna Garret stand and listen with the team as Coach Tillis-Hoard speaks to supporters. Laccen was voted MVP of Region XIV in womens basketball.





DrumBeat takes home 50 TIPA awards this year

The Drumbeat Staff

The DrumBeat, TJC's student media organization, attended the first in-person Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) Conference since 2019, and brought home 50 awards for previously published content — more than any other participating two and four-year university.

TIPA is the largest and oldest student press organization in the country.

The conference was held in downtown Fort Worth and held many on-site contests for students to compete directly against other media teams. The DrumBeat brought home five awards from those contests.

TJC students were awarded 50 honors for their submitted digital, broadcast and print work during the 2021 fall and spring semesters. The DrumBeat newscast won second place in the open division production category, and won second place in overall excellence for both newspaper and website.

> **The DrumBeat prepares students for careers in media by giving them hands-on experience, and connecting them with professionals, and really letting them just kind of learn as they go.**
> *- Kasi Dickerson, mass communications professor and student-media co-adviser.*

Through the newscast, students get hands-on experience in broadcast journalism by working in The DrumBeat's news studio.

Colton Hollis, news anchor and a multimedia journalist, said he found his calling through working for the organization.

"It gave me skills that I did not yet know and it furthered my love for covering sports on a bi-weekly basis," Hollis said. "It helped me realize what I want to do in my future career, which is covering sports."

The DrumBeat's website placed first in web design out of two divisions. The website is home to The DrumBeat's multimedia content, video productions and articles.

Students also excelled with recognitions in visual, in-depth and narrative reporting. Along with print awards recognizing breaking news coverage, design/photography and headline writing.

Marie Salazar, editor-in-chief of The DrumBeat, has led the staff since fall 2020. Under her leadership, she has helped guide the print side.

"This organization takes a lot of time and dedication when it comes to creating the material that we do, despite what others may know or may think," Salazar said. "So when we receive the amount of awards that we have, it really just shines a light on everyone's hard work and dedication. And as the leader of that, it makes me extremely proud of them and extremely happy to know that we are taking steps in the right direction."

The DrumBeat strives to keep the TJC community informed, while also giving aspiring journalism students the resources and experience they need to get a head start in the field.

"The DrumBeat prepares students for careers in media by giving them hands-on experience, and connecting them with professionals, and really letting them just kind of learn as they go," said Kasi Dickerson, mass communications professor and student-media co-adviser.

"We have our website, we have our printed newspaper, and we have our broadcast. So really, whatever you're interested in, we have it."

All of the awards are posted on The Drumbeat's website, and can be found by going to thedrumbeat.com.

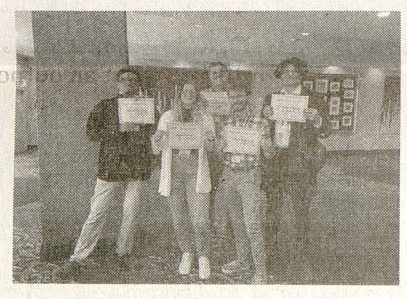


Photo courtesy of The DrumBeat

Live competition awardees Michael King, Alexa Glenn, Isaac Belota, Chris Swann and Santiago Nunez show off their certificates. Live contests give students the opportunity to compete in contests such as sports writing, magazine design and radio announcing.

Photo courtesy of The DrumBeat

The DrumBeat staff poses after awards with their certificates. This is the first time The DrumBeat, including both the broadcast and newspaper team, has attended the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) in-person since 2019. The staff took home more previously published awards than any other school at the 2022 TIPA conference, winning both live on-site competitions as well as previously submitted work.

Reviewing TJC's graduation process; a step-by-step explanation for students

Story by Micheal King
Broadcast News Director

Graduation can be an exciting and overwhelming time for many students, and there are many people working behind the scenes to have graduation go off without a hitch. The Registrar's Office oversees all aspects of graduation, from eligibility to ceremonies.

"It really is a campuswide initiative and everyone kind of has a piece in it. So ultimately, the responsibility does fall under the Registrar's Office," said Britt Sabota, the Registrar of TJC.

Graduates fill out a free form on the TJC website, which is then sent to the Registrar's Office. Once received, the form is sent to a graduation audit specialist, who reviews eligibility. For a student to be eligible for graduation, they must have passed all classes needed for their major, have a GPA of 2.0 or higher, and they must have taken at least 25% of their classes at TJC. "In most cases, they're eligible pending in-progress coursework, or if there are any kind of road bumps, we'll let them know as early as we can so that students have an opportunity to kind of fix those," Sabota said.

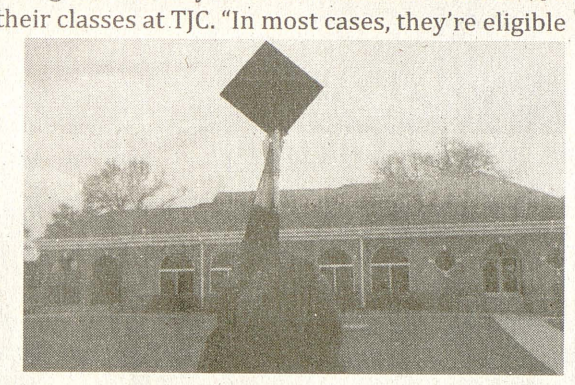


Photo Illustration by Marie Salazar

Graduating Apaches have the support of many departments, including the Registrar's Office, which helps put many graduation events together.

Once the application is processed, it's time for cap and gowns. Students who are confirmed for graduation are sent an email to reserve caps and gowns. Caps and gowns are free, but must be picked up from the Registrar's Office.

Processing students for graduation is only half the battle for the Registrar's Office. The other half of the Registrar's work is taking care of the graduation ceremony. "Just setting up Wagstaff is a big, big project," Sabota said. "We transform the basketball court into something much more than that." All of the departments pitch in, from the IT department helping out with video and sound, to the marketing department advertising the event. "So it really is a big cross campus initiative to get ready for graduation," Sabota said.

Aside from the main ceremony, there is also the Victory Lap parade. The parade started during COVID-19, when graduation was limited. "We did it the first time because we couldn't do a graduation ceremony in that May. And this time, we're doing it the week before graduation," Sabota said. Students drive through the campus celebrating their achievement, ending with a block party.

To register for graduation, visit tjc.edu/graduation and click on the "confirm your graduation" link. The deadline for registering to walk the stage is April 1. Graduates simply wishing to receive their diploma have until the end of the semester to register. Cap and gown pickup is on April 27 and 28. The Victory Lap parade is May 6, and graduation is May 13.

Staying safe during a severe storm emergency

Story and Photo By Brooklyn Gundling
Copy Editor

Tornado season is blowing into Smith County from April to June, which has many out-of-district students wondering what to do in an emergency situation. Students off campus may have their own emergency process, but students living on campus may find themselves feeling less than prepared. While there are emergency procedures in place on the TJC campus, it can seem difficult to know what to do in the midst of an emergency. Here are some things to expect and keep in mind on campus in this unpredictable weather.

1. Know where shelter is

Many buildings can withstand high winds and other types of severe weather. The bathrooms in Jenkins Hall, for example, as well as the first-floor bathrooms in the Rogers Student Center are marked with green "Severe Weather Shelter" signs to alert those nearby that it is safe to shelter there. Most bathrooms on-campus are considered safe shelter areas.

"Being on the highest floor isn't always safe," explained Crossroads Hall resident assistant Simon Griffith. "Every (dorm) room has an emergency shelter room, which is usually the bathroom."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends taking shelter in one's basement, but according to their website, those without may use an "inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor. This could be a center hallway, bathroom or closet."

In the event of inclement weather, shelter should be sought immediately. The TJC campus has many severe weather shelters indicated by green-rimmed signs.

A windowless room is important, as severe winds could break the glass and cause harm to those sheltering inside.

2. Have the essentials ready

If aware of imminent weather, one should pack a bag of essentials. These may vary by location, type of weather and individual preferences. But in general, the bag should have a flashlight with extra batteries, a small first aid kit, some type of snack such as granola bars, a water bottle and a phone charger. The CDC also recommends keeping "fresh batteries and a battery-operated TV," nearby in order to "listen to the latest emergency weather information," on their website.

It is important to know where these items are and to keep them close by when severe weather is expected in or near the area.

3. Find a buddy

No matter how old you are, storms can be frightening to face alone. Having someone nearby can help if something goes wrong. The CDC's website warns that sheltering alone will put one at risk of getting injured without help. Sticking with a partner will also prolong the battery life of phones and radios if all parties have their own. There's also something to be said about the comfort of not feeling alone during an emergency.

If possible, find someone you know and stay together.

4. Stay informed

If possible, keep a news channel's feed going on the phone or tune the radio to a news frequency. TJC has a way to keep students, faculty and staff informed through TJC Alerts. TJC Alerts sends emergency messages directly to those who sign up to the service through text message, phone call and email. Signing up for TJC Alerts will keep you up to date during an emergency.

You can sign up to the TJC Alert system by going to Apache Access and clicking on the box titled "TJC Alert Notifications."

It can be easy to panic during an emergency, but it is important to keep a calm and level-head and listen to instructions. Make sure to shelter as quickly as possible with someone you know, grab your essential items and pay attention to announcements made by the local weather service or TJC through TJC Alerts. For more information about the emergency procedures of TJC, visit tjc.edu/info/20035/campus_police_and_parking/78/emergency_procedures/12.

Graphics by Marie Salazar

Photo Illustration by Chris Swann

It is important to make sure all news is received from a credible source. Some verified journalists on TikTok are @marcus.dipaola, @skynews and @viceworldnews.

Questioning social media's role in the Ukrainian War

By Asia Johnson
Managing Editor

Social media is believed by some to be today's fastest and most influential way to communicate, entertain or receive entertainment, express ourselves, and receive important messages and news.

Why turn on the television, find a news channel and wait to be told the latest breaking news when it can be received much faster with just a few taps and scrolls on a screen?

In today's time, news coverage on social media has explored entirely new territory as it allows viewers to attain information in a different and even first-person perspective.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has been ongoing for some time now, with newspapers, radio stations, TV broadcasting and social media giving live updates to these countries' citizens and the entire world.

More specifically, social media has allowed its users of different platforms like TikTok and Twitter to view first-hand video footage from citizens, soldiers and journalists of a live war, for the first time in history.

Editor-in-Chief of Yukon High School's News, Conner Carlow, said, "Having social media during this time has definitely made me feel more personally connected and invested in what's going on, seeing photos and videos of Ukrainian citizens sharing their experiences. I had seen countless videos of the war in Afghanistan but with the social media climate today, it feels a lot more real and personal."

Currently, #ukraine on TikTok has 32.9 billion views, 1.4 million uses on Facebook and 33.9 million uses on Instagram. Some content that has been shared are videos of bombings, explosions, dead bodies, soldiers in combat, politicians making announcements, first-hand citizen perspective footage and so forth. One video from user @valerisssh on TikTok follows her "typical day" in a bomb shelter, showing her mom cooking, her dog playing and the destruction of her city.

A lot of credible war coverage has been made, but it is vital for audiences to fact-check information, as some news may not be true and could falsely bias one's perspective. Multiple videos have been discovered to have been taken out of context, posing as Ukrainian war footage. An example used on cnn.com is a viral video of a big group of people screaming and running frantically. Many people online were sharing this video as Ukrainian footage, but CNN pointed out the footage was from a low-budget British film.

It is crucial to develop efficient media literacy tactics such as being able to discern exaggerated content, photoshopped images, edited videos and the lack of trustworthy informants. These tools can help to correctly analyze information based on delivery and the overall

Photo Illustration by Chris Swann

message. The impact of fake news has been shown to be negative to the global community. The spread of lies causes confusion, unnecessary emotions like fear and uncertainty in reliability between the audience and content publisher. According to Social Epistemology Review & Reply Collective, "Fake news can lead to a worse informed populace and take in those in positions of power, thereby threatening a range of things we value. It might have genuinely disastrous consequences."

Other war content found on social media are things such as memes and rude comments that can come off as insensitive, but some see these moments as ways to manage one's emotions.

TJC Alumna Tal Carson said, "I have seen many statements from politicians as well as confirmed and unconfirmed stories about specific people and occurrences in Ukraine. Some posts I've seen are almost definitely misleading or untrustworthy (such as those put out by the Russian government), while others come from reputable sources such as members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, etc. I have also seen memes and other creative content, which I believe helps people to cope with heavy topics such as this war without drawing their attention away."

Social media algorithms vary for everyone so the type of content and perspective that shows up on one's feed may be different. However, anyone who receives any kind of news or information is bound to have their perception either strengthened or changed. A mass of news coverage even beyond the war has yielded much insight.

"Living in a very conservative area, I've naturally seen a lot of mixed reactions. The number of people that believe that this is a prank or some liberal propaganda creation is astonishing. The recent rising gas prices have definitely added more fuel to the flames," Carlow said. "Another thing I've seen commented on a lot in regards to companies shutting off services to Russia, which opened many people's eyes to how much corporate America can/does control everyday life."

There are many cons to these apps, but they also have their pros. Many people, especially younger generations who don't access the news on TV, have now gained that access through a system that can be understood. Current news and information can be attained quick and efficiently, serving knowledge to people who may not have received it any other way. Others tend to think the same.

"Although there are some negative threads that I've mentioned, I think it is a net positive," Carson said. "Sure, a single social media post doesn't effectively win the war for Ukraine, but an outpouring of support even via social media brings attention to the issue, putting pressure on entities with the capacity to effect real change. Among such entities are the governments of the world and people like Elon Musk."

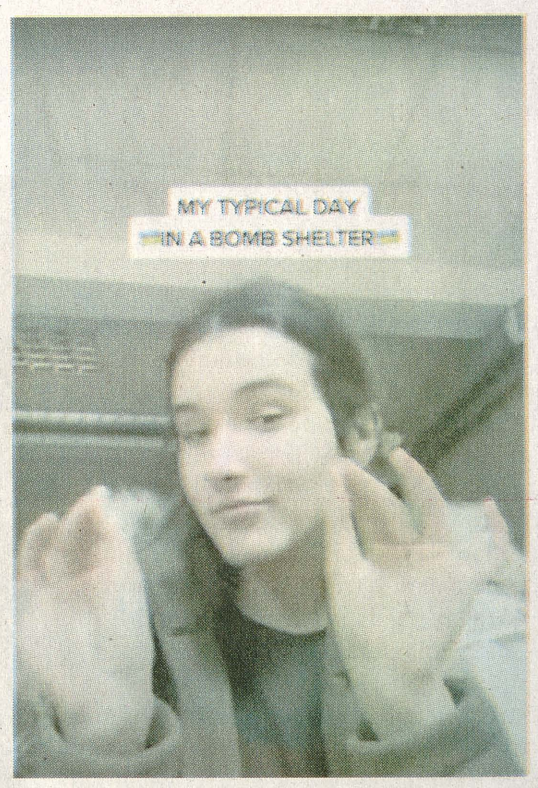


Photo Courtesy of TikTok/@valerisssh

TikTok users @valerisssh and @dzvnks have become popular on social media for her Ukraine content. They post first-hand videos about their individual and family's life in during the war.

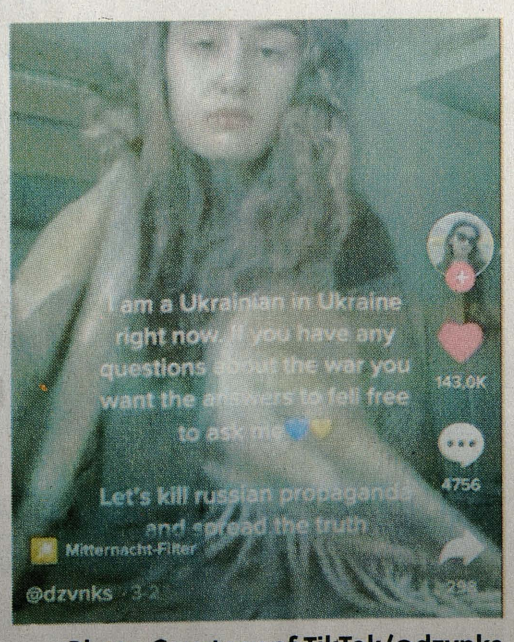


Photo Courtesy of TikTok/@dzvnks

User @dzvnks uses her platform as a "diary" as a Ukrainian refugee. She informs her audience of ways to help people in Ukraine.

Photo Courtesy of Twitter/@Ukraine

This post is from the official Ukraine Twitter page, which was made in 2016. Currently, the page is used to provide live news coverage of their current war.

Photo Courtesy of TikTok/@valerisssh

According to The Washington Post, TikTok has banned Russia from live streaming and posting new content due to Russia's fake news law.

Farming · Fun · Freshness

Rose City Farmers Market kicks off spring season

By Marie Salazar
Editor-in-Chief

As spring begins to grow so does the need for fresh produce within the Tyler area. Luckily the Rose City Farmers Market provides individuals with the opportunity to shop for produce and additional items locally.

The Rose City Farmers Market will kick off its annual spring season April 9. The market will be held from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday starting April 9 and will not close until November. The farmers market is located at 221 S. Broadway Ave Tyler, TX 75702 in Downtown.

The farmers market provides a group of hand selected local vendors the opportunity to sell locally grown, owned and created merchandise. In addition to providing local farmers and craftsmen the opportunity to sell their products, the farmers market also gives Tyler residents the chance to buy and support locally owned businesses.

According to foodcoalition.org, the mission behind the Rose City Farmers Market is to "connect people with sources of locally grown foods and advocate eating locally for the health of our environment, community, culture, and economy. Through advocacy, organizing and education, we work toward a sustainable local food system that meets the needs of both producers and consumers."

The Rose City Farmers Market offers a variety of products such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, pasture-raised beef, lamb, pork, chicken and turkey, free-range and non-GMO eggs, goat cheeses, cut flowers, artisanal foods for example breads and pastries, jams, jellies, granola, East Texas fruit wines, Central Texas olive oil and handcrafted art.

How long each vendor stays at the farmers market is determined by the time of year and what products they sell.

"It depends on the week, but usually, there's probably five or six people who are always going to be there no matter what. But they usually post the day the morning of who's going to be there, they post a lot of that on their Facebook," said Lisa Horlander, a volunteer at Rose City Farmers Market. Those interested in learning more about vendors can search Rose City Farmers Market on Facebook to locate the markets official Facebook page.

To ensure everyone gets the opportunity to indulge in fresh produce and food, the farmers market accepts WIC. "They team up with WIC and WIC shows. So that's one thing that I think is the greatest thing that they have is if you're on WIC, you can go to the WIC booth, you can talk to them, they get your vouchers, go straight over and buy some products with vouchers, which is an awesome thing," Horlander said.

Individuals using WIC can receive up to "$30 in free produce for each eligible WIC participant" according to foodcoalition.org/visit/.

The National WIC Association states that WIC is a, "special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. A short-term intervention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a targeted, high-risk population."

In addition to WIC vouchers, patrons planning on using credit cards can visit the welcome table at the farmers market to receive tokens for the amount they wish to purchase.

Furthermore, the Rose City Farmers Market also offers customers the opportunity to volunteer each Saturday. Volunteers will have a variety of responsibilities.

"The volunteers can run the welcome booth and answer questions. So the volunteers, they'll help set up and take down," Horlander said. "Sometimes the vendors will need someone to watch their booth while they go to the bathroom, so volunteers sometimes help with that, too. So there's a lot of different things."

For anyone interested in volunteering or selling their homemade products, contact rosecityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Image courtesy of The Rose City Farmers Market
The Rose City Farmers Market is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Looking back at history: Jenkins statue mysteriously disappears for 18 years

By Maddison Grimaldo
Social Media Editor

Walking through Jenkins Hall will bring students to the man himself, Dr. Harry Jenkins displayed just underneath the double stairs. However, this was not always his home.

In 1995, the 300-pound statue of Harry Jenkins went missing without a trace. For 18 years it went on a journey, only later to be discovered all the way in Austin.

The statue's path to Austin is still a mystery and may remain such, even to investigator Jason Waller, the department chair of the legal and public service careers program at Tyler Junior College, who was part of the investigation that brought Jenkins back home.

"We were asked by the college administration to take it on as a project for our criminal justice students," Waller said.

In 2011, Waller and a group of criminal justice students were asked to reopen the investigation into the disappearance. Waller's group sifted through not only paperwork from the original investigation by the Tyler Police Department but also the many rumors that had accumulated through the years.

"There is always rumor about things and how things happened," Waller expressed. One rumor was that an Austin fraternity stole it and put the statue in their house. Waller said it is the most believable one, as it was recovered in Austin.

Another rumor stemmed from a ritual by Phi Rho Pi, the TJC Speech and Debate team. A long-standing tradition was for the team to climb on the pedestal and rub the head of Harry Jenkins before competitions. Some thought one of the students, in an attempt to rub the head of the statue, knocked the statue to the ground and broke it. In a panic, the team was believed to have stolen the statue and dumped it in Lake Tyler. During the investigation, Waller and his students searched the lake but did not discover the statue.

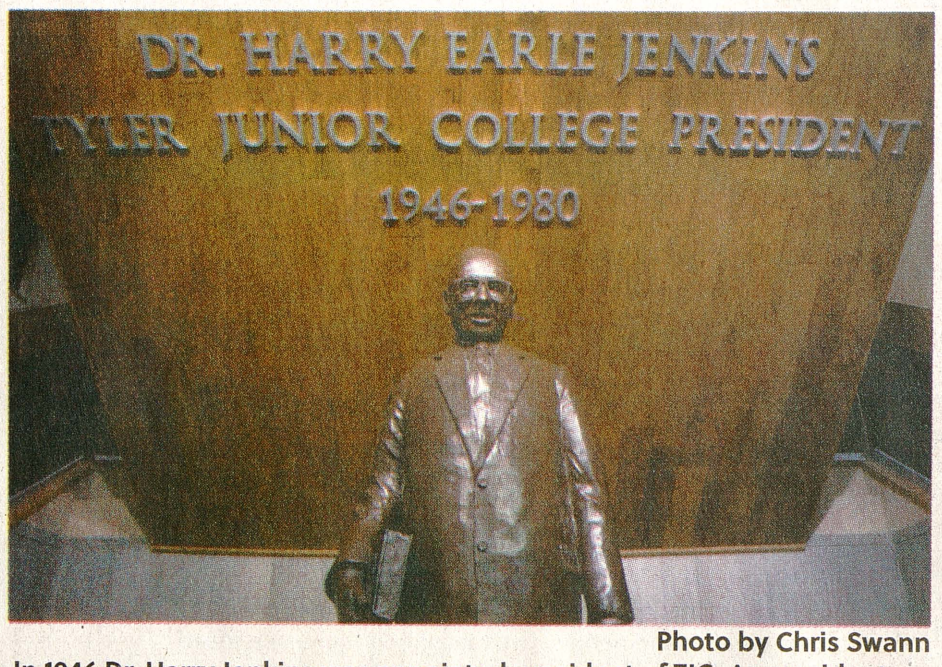


Photo by Chris Swann
In 1946 Dr. Harry Jenkins was appointed president of TJC. As president, he led the growth and expansion of the college.

Waller, however, had his own theories apart from these widespread rumors.

"Having been a student here when we had national fraternities, that was kind of the thing, probably one of the fraternities, because fraternities would do things, part of the initiation process," Waller said. "Where it was at on campus, it's not like you just drive by and see it. You had to physically be on campus to have seen it."

The statue's placement would have presented a challenge in its theft; making it more likely for it to have been taken by someone familiar with the surroundings. While no rumor was ever confirmed, some were disproved upon its return, such as, it being melted down or being dumped into Lake Tyler.

According to a 2013 article by the Tyler Morning Telegraph titled "TJC statue returns to campus after missing for 18 years" the statue was discovered at an apartment complex in Austin by the building engineer, Bernardo Trivino. Normally, everything left by a tenant would be trashed. However, Trivino said, "there was no way I was going to put him in the trash compactor."

After the initial research for the statue's origin turned up empty, Trivino kept the statue and had it in his home for many years, dressing him up for holidays and naming him "George". Nothing is known about how the statue ended up at the apartments, but like Waller said, "it's good to be good, but better to be lucky." Waller definitely considers TJC lucky that the statue ended up in Trivino's hands and was returned.

The statue was originally sculpted in 1986 by self-taught artist John Harper, according to an article by KLTV titled "Sculptor's daughter reacts to recovery of stolen TJC statue." The statue is made out of brass and is estimated to be worth around $30,000. Harper passed away in 1994 and was not around during the statue's disappearance, but his daughter Joni Harper-Gonni expressed in an interview with KLTV, "I was very happy because I think that's a missing part of my dad that had been gone for almost 20 years and I don't have my dad anymore. So that statue and every piece of art that he's ever sculpted, that's the bond that we have with him is his art."

The statue has been moved inside where it currently sits in Jenkins Hall. Extra security has also been set in place to prevent anything from ever happening to the statue of Jenkins again.

"It has its own security camera, it's got one, maybe two cameras on it at all times. It is pretty much set where it is and will cause a ruckus if anybody wants to get close to it," Waller said. With additional security in place, it is safe to say Dr. Harry Jenkins is in his forever home.

The DrumBeat is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Association, 2022

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